

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 AID-05

CIEP-01 CEA-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /068 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, AR

SUBJECT: BUSINESS MOBILIZING TO OPPOSE GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY

1. A NEW ORGANIZATION HAS RECENTLY BEEN FORMED TO EXPRESS  
OPPOSITION OF PRIVATE SECTOR TO GOA ECONOMIC POLICY. IT  
IS CALLED THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY OF SYNDICATED BUSINESS  
ENTITIES (ASAMBLEA PERMANENTE DE ENTIDADES GREMIALES  
EMPRESARIAS) (APEGE) AND INCLUDES MAJOR FEDERATIONS AND  
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, TRADE,  
CONSTRUCTION, ETC. NEW ENTITY PROMISES TO BECOME A MAJOR  
NEW VOICE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN ARGENTINA.

2. LAST WEEK, APEGE HELD ITS OPENING SESSION. MORE THAN  
1,000 DELEGATES ATTENDED REPRESENTING 80 OR MORE CHAMBERS  
AND FEDERATIONS. A RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED CALLING FOR  
IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW MEASURES TO ASSURE  
INDUSTRIAL ORDER AND SECURITY, ELIMINATE BOTTLENECKS  
STIFLING PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY, EXPAND EXPORTS,  
REDUCE INFLATION AND REGULARIZE TAX LEGISLATION.  
APEGE ALSO AGREED TO IMPLEMENT ACTION PLAN INCLUDING  
NONPAYMENT OF TAXES AND GENERAL BUSINESS STRIKE IF REFORM  
IN THESE AREAS NOT FORTHCOMING.

3. A SOURCE WHO ATTENDED MEETING CAME AWAY IMPRESSED BY  
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SERIOUSNESS OF MEETING AND VOLATILE OPPOSITION TO  
GOVERNMENT POLICIES. COMMON THEMES OF SPEECHES WERE

LACK OF EFFECTIVE BUSINESS REPRESENTATION IN GOA  
ECONOMIC POLICY FORMULATION, WIDESPREAD DESTRUCTION OF  
PRIVATE SECTOR IN ARGENTINA, AND STRONG ADVANCE OF LEFTISTS  
IN COUNTRY. FORMER ECONOMY MINISTER GELBARD WAS SINGLED  
OUT FOR PARTICULARLY SHARP CRITICISM ACCORDING TO SOURCE.

4. IN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN POLITICAL POSITION, CGE IS  
TODAY (FEBRUARY 2) ALSO HOLDING SPECIAL SESSION TO EXPRESS  
OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT POLICY. HOWEVER, LACKING  
INFLUENCE IN GOVERNMENT AND REPRESENTATION WITHIN PRIVATE  
SECTOR, CGE HAS NOW BEEN LARGEMLY THRUST TO THE SIDE BY  
COURSE OF EVENTS.

5. COMMENT: BUSINESS SECTOR APPEARS TO BE ARISING FROM  
ITS RELATIVE POLITICAL LETHARGY AND UNITING TO FORCE  
CHANGE IN ECONOMIC POLICY DIRECTION.  
WE DO NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY OF WIDESPREAD  
BUSINESS STRIKE IF GOVERNMENT FAILS TO ACT ON ISSUES APEGE  
BELIEVES IMPORTANT.

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## Message Attributes

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